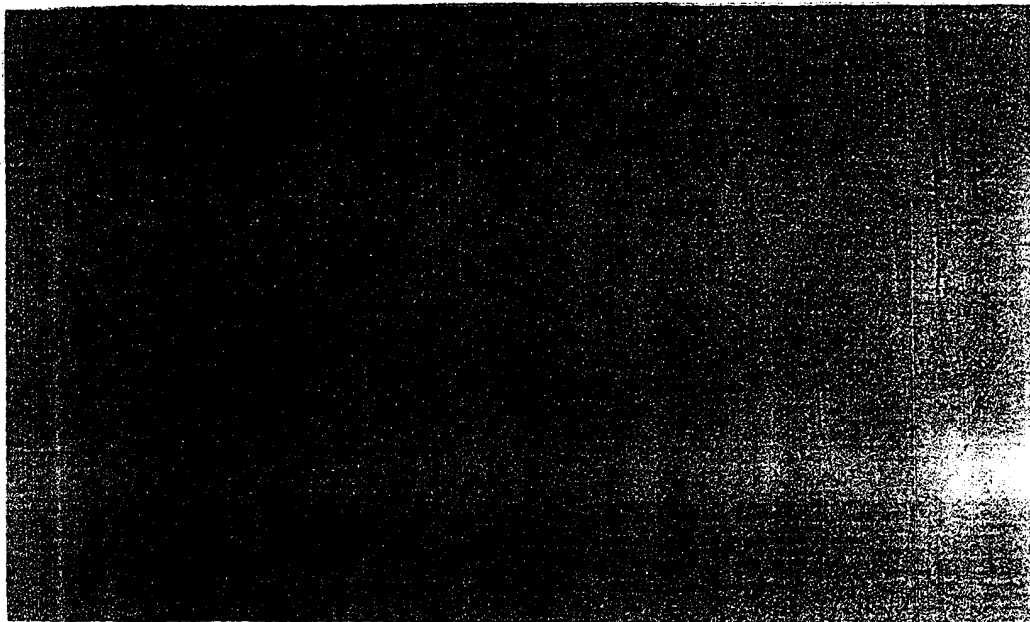


2 June 1960



CUBA

Soviet trade specialists and technicians have begun to arrive in Cuba in sizable numbers. On 22 May, 80 are believed to have joined the trade commission establish in Havana during Soviet First Deputy Premier Mikoyan's visit in February. Venezuelan newspapers have reported that Russians and Czechs recently passing through that country en route to Cuba are documented as mechanics, technicians, and experts on airports, hydrology, meteorology, and other specialties.

the Cuban Government is granting visas freely to bloc nationals.

The US service attachés in Havana have a reliable report that only four Soviet technicians now are advising the Cuban Air Force, and that air force personnel have been

told that MIG aircraft are due to arrive in Cuba in late June or July accompanied by Soviet pilots and technicians. Possibly in a prior move to purge the air force of personnel whose loyalty to the Castro regime is in doubt, Raul Castro is reported to have arrested 23 pilots and 22 enlisted men on trumped-up charges in the past few days.

The expected establishment of relations between Cuba and Communist China may come in June. The Peiping Opera Company will spend most of the month in Cuba as the highlight if a long-planned campaign emphasizing cultural ties between the two countries. The newly formed Cuban-Chinese Friendship Association, headed by pro-Communist Cubans who have recently visited Peiping, will probably play a prominent role

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in the campaign. Some 30 Cubans are reliably reported to be attending a six-month training course in China, and at least three other student, labor, and official Cuban delegations have visited there in recent weeks.

Peiping has shown special sympathy for Castro's revolution, and Cuba seems to be a key target in plans for stepped-up Chinese propaganda activity in Latin America.

During an official visit to attend Argentine independence celebrations in Buenos Aires from 25 to 29 May, the Cuban delegation headed by President Dorticos concentrated on efforts to attract popular support for the Castro regime and showed little respect for the Frondizi government. Dorticos flouted protocol, made vicious attacks on the United States

before a pro-Communist university group, and went out of his way to meet with leaders of an actively antigovernment, Peronist labor group.

The suspicion that Dorticos plans similar tactics throughout his current Latin American trip has led Uruguay and Brazil to treat him properly but coolly and has elicited press criticism in Peru and Mexico. Strong differences over Castro continue to cause political tension in Venezuela, and President Betancourt has been trying to put off Dorticos' visit to Caracas. Meddling by Cuban officials in the domestic political affairs of other countries has already irritated several Latin American governments, but they hesitate to criticize the Castro regime because of its popularity among some politically important groups in their countries.

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PART I

OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST

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PART II

NOTES AND COMMENTS

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